

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The following corrections should be made:

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1. Russian should read Soviet except in the fifth line from the bottom of paragraph 1.
2. Lesnovo may be Lezhnevo N 56-46, E 40-53.
3. Ivanovski Oblast should read Ivanovskaya Oblast.
4. "Fufajka" should read "fufayka".
5. Petrovska is probably Petrovskiy N 56-39, E 40-17.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. The Russians captured me on 14 May 1945. near Graz. Austria

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Lesnovo is a small town in the Ivanovski Oblast. The PW camp, which was empty was located in a textile factory. the factory courtyard, which was fenced in by heavy barbed wire. The building was one-storied, approximately 10 m. wide and 40 m. long, with a red tile roof. The interior was constructed with concrete arches. The room, in which about 250 PW's lived, sleeping on tiered wooden bunks, had doors on each end but no windows or stoves. Later new PW transports arrived and the number of PW's increased to 400 - 450. The majority of the PW's were Hungarians and the others were Germans, Rumanians, Italians, Austrians, Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks. There were no fights among the various nationalities. It was strictly an EM camp. The fence surrounding the PW building was approximately 10 - 15 m. from the wall of the building, and approximately three meters high, with the top curved inward. On the top of the fence four or five electric wires were laid and also strong electric lights were spaced about 20 - 30 m. apart. On either side of the fence was a plot of freshly turned, carefully raked, earth (a track plot) 1 1/2 m. wide. At the outer edge of this 1 1/2 m. of fresh earth there was another fence 1 1/2 m. high, topped with barbed wire from which empty tin cans

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hung. If someone caught the wire, the empty cans rattled. At each corner of the enclosed fence surrounding the building there were wooden sentry towers five meters high, each with a roof protecting the sentries from the weather. The guards were equipped with rifles or machine pistols. At the gate, also, there was a sentry box and sentry. Each guard tower was connected by telephone to the other towers and the guard room. Approximately 20-40 soldiers guarded the camp, all belonging to the MVD. The guards were prohibited from entering the camp or talking to the PW's. The guard on duty at the gate prevented anyone from entering or leaving the camp except the staff of the camp commander (political officer, supply officer, etc.). During my stay there no one succeeded in escaping. The system of fence construction and the guarding method were the same in all the camps. The commander of this camp was a first lieutenant and the commander of the guard was a sergeant major. A female was employed as the camp's political officer and a second lieutenant was in charge of supply. The representative of the PW's was a former Hungarian ensign, Lazlo REVESZ,

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His deputy was a Yugoslav Volksdeutsch, (fnu) MUELLER. Sanitary matters were handled by a female feldscher. There was no sick room in the camp, and no medicaments except iodine and salicylic acid. no opportunity to write or receive mail. Reveille was at 0600 hours and taps at 2100 hours. PW's worked 12 hours daily either in the textile factory or in the forest 12 km. from the camp.

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did not receive any wages or salary. Every tenth day had an opportunity to bathe in wooden tubs. received clothing only for wint received the fufajka /quilted jackets/ of dead Soviet soldiers. The food was very bad. For breakfast one-half liter of cabbage or potato soup, which was only warm water. For lunch the same soup and a small quantity of cooked cabbage or potatoes. Dinner consisted of the same soup and 60 dkg. of black, bitter, and stinking bread. same menu on Sundays and holidays, too. one liter of boiled drinking water daily, which was to be used for both washing and drinking. one day a week for rest, but had to completely clean the camp. There were many lice and bedbugs.

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received political instruction three times a week from the female political officer of the camp, and during this political indoctrination everyone just smiled or slept. The civilian workers in the textile factory were extremely friendly toward us. They supplied us with vegetables.

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2. In October 1945 50 PW's of all nationalities transported to the so-called General Officers' Camp, which was located 14-15 km. southwest of Lesnovo. This camp was divided into two parts. In one part there were approximately 250 general officers of the former German, Hungarian, Rumanian, Italian, Polish, Czech, and Slovak armies. They were housed in a big three-story building with whitewashed walls, located in the middle of a pine tree park. The whole area was about 600 x 600, fenced-in in the usual way, plus inside an additional plank fence three meters high. The generals did not work. Their food was good. They lived in single and double rooms and they had servants from their own armies. The other part of this camp was approximately 600 m. away from the generals' building, and housed the enlisted personnel. The area of this part of the camp was approximately 300 x 300 m. and consisted of four one-story barracks. The majority of the enlisted

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PW's worked in the fields; the others served their generals. There were about 300 EM's living in three or four wooden, well-heated barracks.

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There were no lice, but there were bedbugs. The commander of both camps was a lieutenant colonel of the MVD, and his staff consisted of three or four officers ranking from second lieutenant to major. [redacted] not receive intensive political indoctrination. Each nationality had its representative. Medical care was available, but nobody was sick.

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3. [redacted] Camp No. 13 near Ivanovo.

[redacted] this camp was so overcrowded that many PW's couldn't find space on the floor to lie down. This camp was very bad in all respects.

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[redacted] supplies from a huge military food storage warehouse located in a big forest 10 km. northeast of Ivanovo. [redacted] huge underground storage bins there filled with all kinds of food, mostly canned goods. These storage bins were approximately 30 m. wide and 150 m. long, with brick walls and concrete floors. Only the roofs were exposed above ground, and each was surrounded with barbed wire fencing and guarded by sentries and police dogs.

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4. [redacted] PW's to the Petrovskia Camp, located 80 km. west of Ivanovo

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[redacted] There were two camps for EM, each 200 x 100 m. in area. Each had one one-storied building; one was stone, the other wood. There were approximately 350 PW's -- Hungarians, Rumanians, Bulgarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Austrians, Letts, Lithuanians, Finns, Italians, Serbians, Croats, and Poles. The food was extremely bad. One group of PW's worked in a liquor factory, and they were considered lucky because they could steal maize from the factory. They ground, cooked, and baked this maize to get some nourishment. The other group worked collecting peat in the marshy swamps. PW's who became unable to continue working in the swamps were sent to work in the liquor factory and, after regaining their strength, they were returned to the swamps. The percentage of deaths among the PW's was very high and the Soviets transported new PW's to this camp weekly in order to keep it filled. A very high percentage of the PW's contracted rheumatism [redacted] did not receive any medical care. [redacted] bathed only during the summertime, and then only in the swamps. [redacted] no clothing or soap. The place was crawling with lice and bedbugs. The camp commander was a first lieutenant [redacted] a political officer and supply officer. [redacted] PW's who had finished the so-called "antifa" schools. Their task was to indoctrinate the other PW's, but they were not successful. The solidarity of the PW's was very strong and they often beat the political instructors.

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5. [redacted] near the Tushino Airfield
[redacted] a nearby PW camp

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[redacted] This was the largest PW camp
[redacted] It covered an area 500 x 300 m., and had many single story wooden barracks. It was divided into three parts and fenced-in in the usual way. There were approximately 2,000 PW's there—all enlisted men of various nationalities, but the majority were Germans and Hungarians.

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[redacted] political indoctrination was strictly enforced.

6.

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[redacted] No.1 Ivanovo Camp, ENE of Moscow, [redacted] Its area was 200 x 100 m., and there was one large brick two-story building. [redacted] approximately 600 PW's.

This system was the same as in the other camps, but here members of the forced labor squadron worked twelve hours daily instead of eight, and they received less food. The PW's worked in various textile factories of the town and the forced labor squad delivered coal. Ivanovo was a fairly large city with approximately 600,000 inhabitants and numerous machine factories, textile factories, and foundries.

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[redacted] The PW's were restricted from talking with the civilian workers. However, PW's could steal textiles from the factory. In this camp the PW's were allowed to write and receive mail. Every PW was entitled to write a postcard using 35 words, but [redacted] the camp administration carried [redacted] to the attic or burned them.

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[redacted] The camp commander was a second lieutenant.

7.

[redacted] Camp No. 113, Moscow, where they unloaded 150 PW's, all Hungarians. [redacted] There were approximately 700 PW's in the camp, mostly Germans, Hungarians, and Rumanians. The food was very bad and there was not enough of it. The camp commander, a lieutenant colonel, was very strict. The guard commander, 2nd Lt. SARIKOV, beat four or five PW's daily until they collapsed. The political officer was a major. [redacted] three wooden barracks and were assigned to building construction. [redacted] built apartment houses for Army officers' families.

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[redacted] camp was a huge military barracks. [redacted] artillery guns and rocket launchers. Customarily the PW's worked eight hours a day, but if the norm was not completed they worked until they reached the norm. Many PW's tried to escape, usually without success.

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8.

Moscow camp.

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/see par. 5/. In July 1947 a typhus and dysentery epidemic broke out in this camp and 600 PW's died.

The Soviets sent 50 PW physicians to the camp and declared a building in the camp a hospital. Patients got toast, tea without sugar, three pills daily, and three spoonsful of permanganate solution for drinking and twice-daily internal irrigation. The camp area was very large and railroad tracks lead into the camp. The PW's unloaded the freight cars which contained vegetables and other food supplies for the inhabitants of Moscow. They had no strict working schedule. When the trains arrived they had to work until the trains were unloaded. The Soviets stored the goods in big cellars, from which trucks transported them into the city. The items involved included potatoes, cabbage, beets, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, apples, watermelons, grapes, pears, plums, beans, peas, onions.

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The camp commander was a major who committed suicide in the summer of 1947.

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9.

another Moscow camp, where there were approximately 400 PW's (Germans, Hungarians, and Rumanians) working on the construction of an electric plant. deep ditches for heavy cables and constructed the fence for the plant. The camp, covering an area about 200 x 300 m., was located near the electric plant and 30-35 PW's shared a room in a new two-story brick building. The food was bad, as usual, but clothing was better

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got sheets and pillows. There were two sick rooms and adequate medical care. The PW's not only wrote postcards home, but they received letters too. Many PW's were sent home from this camp, but former SS soldiers, PW's who volunteered for the Army, gendarmes, and policemen, were sent to other PW camps from here.

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There were many PW's who went mad and had nervous breakdowns. Some PW's committed suicide; some had epileptic attacks. The PW's organized hunger strikes. All this was reaction to the long cruel years spent in the PW camps. The Soviets kept promising that the PW's would be sent home, but they did not seem to be keeping their word. At last the camp physician reported personally to the Moscow authorities on the condition of the camp, and as a result they started sending the PW's home.

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Comment: No co-ordinates are given for Lesnovo and Ivanovo because there are many towns with the same names in the USSR

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